



Lower Merion School District

301 East Montgomery Ave., Ardmore, PA 19003
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Robert Copeland, Superintendent of Schools

September, 2020

Dear LMSD Families,

I hope you have been enjoying the summer break and staying healthy. We look forward to welcoming our students back to school, whether they are joining LMVA, LMSD@Home or their home schools, on **September 8, 2020**. As you know from my bi-weekly updates, students attending their home schools will start the year with remote instruction through at least October 5, 2020. Our goal remains a safe and equitable return to in-person instruction for those students and staff. We will continue to keep you informed as our Health and Safety Team, in consultation with Dr. David Rubin of CHOP's PolicyLab, monitors the trends, positivity and incidence rates for our area, with a view toward making that goal a reality as soon as we can.

As this academic year begins, I'd like to share some additional updates on recent, ongoing and upcoming District initiatives and developments:

Devices, Internet, Instructional Resources and Lunches

By now, you should have received information from your school principals regarding the distribution of devices, textbooks and other resources your children will need to engage in virtual instruction to start the year. My thanks to the many staff members who gathered, sorted and worked to distribute all of these items at our ten schools. We are grateful that LMSD is able to provide devices for all of our students. The Lower Merion Board of School Directors is also sponsoring Comcast Internet Essentials for families who need internet access. Interested families should call the School and Community Relations Department at 610-645-1977 or email info@lmsd.org for further information on how to enroll.

Special thanks as well to the members of our Nutritional Services and Operations teams who worked through the spring and summer to distribute more than 92,700 meals to children. Our free meal distribution will continue once school starts. The first dates are Tuesday, Sept. 8th and Wednesday Sept. 9th from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. In the following weeks, distributions will be on Mondays and Wednesdays at those times. The location is the parking lot behind Lower Merion High School (follow signs for the pool and staff will direct you).

Ad-Hoc Committee on Equity and Anti-Racism

Our District already had numerous efforts underway to promote equity and a sense of belonging for all of our students, including our CARE Committee, Achievement Imperative Task Force, Becton and POWER Scholars programs, curriculum updates, minority hiring initiatives, and staff cultural proficiency training. After the George Floyd killing, our students and community members sent us a clear message that we have more work to do. In response, the Board created an Ad-Hoc Committee

on Equity and Anti-Racism that will work to ensure our efforts are coordinated and producing measurable outcomes. The dates/times for this committee's meetings, will be posted in the Board section of the District website and on the calendar.

Enrollment Growth and the New Middle School

As of this writing, enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year stands at close to 9000 students. Lower Merion continues to be one of the fastest-growing districts in the Commonwealth. Sitework, including blasting through several feet of rock, at our new middle school property is nearly complete. Groundbreaking events planned for the summer were cancelled, but plans for a virtual event are being looked at to mark the next stage of construction once school begins. We are also continuing to move forward with plans for the middle school fields, which will benefit not only our students, but the entire community. Our curriculum team will be continuing their work to re-envision the instructional models for what will be the K-4 elementary schools and 5-8 middle schools starting in Sept. 2022.

New Assistant Superintendent

I am also very pleased to welcome our new Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Alexis McGloin, who fills the vacancy left when Dr. Scott Eveslage left LMSD to become Superintendent in the Hatboro-Horsham School District. Dr. McGloin brings with her a wealth of experience, having served the Central Bucks School District as Assistant Superintendent for Assessment, Professional Development and Educational Services and the Upper Perkiomen School District as Superintendent. I know she looks forward to meeting you in-person as soon as that is possible.

As a final note, you can access important information on our website www.lmsd.org in the Parent tab under "Annual Notifications". Any family that would like paper copies of school and/or District communications can request them through the main office at their child's school. I hope you enjoy the last days of summer!

Sincerely,



Robert Copeland
Superintendent